GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4503
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2002
SPURIOUS DRUGS
SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had called a meeting of all Chief Ministers to check the menace of spurious drugs in the country and ways and means to check it as reported in the `Rashtriya Sahara` dated November 13, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts reported therein;

(c) the outcome of the meeting; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA)

(a)& (b): Union Minister of Health &F.W. had called a meeting of the Health Ministers and senior officials of 13 major States of the country on 12.11.2002to discuss measures to ensure concerted action required to check movement of spurious, drugs in the country and to involve all stake holders, including pharma industry, in measures required to curb menace of manufacture and marketing of spurious/fake medicines.

Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare had also written on Oct 8th , 2002 toall the Chief Ministers seeking their personal intervention to ensure that adequate measures are taken in each State to vigorously pursue the strategies needed to preclude any possibility of menace of spurious products.

(c)& (d): Based on the deliberations held, the meeting recommended certain guidelines needed to be adopted by the State Govts. for focused strategies to curb the menace of manufacture and sale of spurious drugs. These strategies included: (1) Improving uniformity in implementing various regulatory requirements by the State enforcing authorities.(2) Making stricter provisions under the Drugs &Cosmetics Acts, 1945 for offences as non-bailable and cognizable. (3) State Governments may consider an enactment `The Gujarat Preventon of Anti-social activities Act, 1985`made by the state of Gujarat which provides for preventive detention of drug offenders for anti-social activities and dangerous activities prejudicial to the maintenance of public order.(4) Augmentation of drug testing facilities i n the States for speedy analysis of drug samples with a view to bring down testing time of samples of drugs.(5) Efficient communication networking through computerization for efficient information exchange. (6) Surveillance over distribution of drugs through medical practitioners. (7) Improvement of regulatory infrastructure (8) The pharma industry to take adequate initiative to detect counterfeiting/imitation of their product and proper coordination with drug regulatory agencies.(9)Speedy trial by identified or designated courts for deciding spurious drug cases (10) To provide toll free number so that consumers or doctors can easily make their complaints. (11) Establishment of intelligence-cum-legal cell and anti-spurious squad to detect and unearth spurious drugs cases. (12) To set up/reactivate state drugs advisory committee in which all stakeholders are partners. (13) Undertaking surveillance of suspected dealers through decoy customers/watchers. (14) Training programmes for officers of drugs control administration in matters concerning development of intelligence, detection, investigation, preparing and filing complaints, court procedures etc.